

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An image forming apparatus comprising:  
a drive source for producing driving force;  
5 an image carrier driven by said driving force; and  
a driving force transmission apparatus for transmitting  
the driving force produced by said drive source to said image  
carrier,

wherein said driving force transmission apparatus  
10 comprises:

a first endless-shaped flat belt having a plurality of  
through holes along a travel direction thereof; and

a rotation member having a plurality of projections to  
which said plural through holes of the first flat belt are  
15 fitted.

2. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein said first flat belt has a plurality of columns of  
through holes along the belt travel direction.

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3. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein said first flat belt has elongated-hole shaped through  
holes which are elongated along a belt width direction  
perpendicular to the belt travel direction.

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4. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said first endless-shaped flat belt is formed of a plurality of sheets of flat belts which are superimposed with each other.

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5. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the driving force transmission apparatus further comprises:

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10 a second endless-shaped flat belt having a plurality of through holes along a travel direction thereof; and

a second rotation member over which said first endless-shaped flat belt and said second endless-shaped flat belt are worn,

15 an axis of the second rotation member is the same as that of the first rotation member.

6. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the driving force transmission apparatus further comprises:

20 a second endless-shaped flat belt having a plurality of through holes along a travel direction thereof; and

a plurality of second rotation members over which said first endless-shaped flat belt and said second endless-shaped flat belt are worn,

25 the first rotation member is a plurality of first rotation

members;

an axis of at least one of the second rotation members is the same axis as that of the arbitrary first rotation members.

5 7. The image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein one of the rotation members having the same axis is a free rotating member which follows movement of a belt winded thereto.

10 8. The image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the driving force transmission apparatus further comprises a position restricting member for restricting movement of said second rotation member along an axis direction.

15 9. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image carrier is a plurality of image carriers.

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20 10. The image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said driving force transmission apparatus has an apparatus for transferring driving force from the drive source to a first image carrier and an apparatus for transferring driving force from said drive source to a second image carrier.

25 11. A driving force transmission apparatus comprising:  
a plurality of endless-shaped flat belts having a

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plurality of through holes along a travel direction thereof,  
the plurality of endless-shaped flat belts superimposed with  
each other under a state that said through holes coincide with  
each other; and

5 a rotation member having a plurality of projections to  
which said through holes of said plural flat belts are fitted.

12. The driving force transmission apparatus according  
to claim 11, wherein portions of said plurality of flat belts  
10 are coupled to each other.

13. The driving force transmission apparatus according  
to claim 11 wherein, said flat belts have a plurality of columns  
of through holes along the belt travel direction.  
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14. The driving force transmission apparatus according  
to claim 11, wherein said flat belts own elongated-hole shaped  
through holes which are elongated along a width direction  
perpendicular to the belt travel direction.  
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15. A flat belt,  
wherein at least one portions of a plurality of belt  
members are fixed to each other; and  
the plurality of belt members are arranged to be  
25 independently extensible from each other.